



BSAFE PILOT PROJECT 2007-2010

Bsafe offers an intervention to prevent further violence and enables women and children to remain in their own homes and communities.

Bsafe provides a cost effective personal alarm system for women and children who have obtained an Intervention Order where the offender has been excluded from the home and are at risk of that order being breached. Bsafe targets people in the context of intimate partner relationships who have experienced family violence and /or sexualised assault, and their children.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

A total of **72 women** with **143 children** participated in the pilot project from across the Hume region of Victoria. The additional support and service that Bsafe provides has been highly successful in:

- ✓ Reducing perpetrator violence and recidivism, notably the incidence of physical violence;
- ✓ Increasing accountability for men who perpetrate family violence;
- ✓ Increasing women and their children's feelings of safety;
- ✓ Supporting women and their children to remain in their own homes and communities;
- ✓ Increasing women's connection with social support networks and access to relevant support services;
- ✓ Providing an integrated response to family violence by strengthening the relationship between family violence and sexual assault services, the police, health and community sectors and the community.

Housing and Bsafe

The overwhelming majority of Bsafe recipients have been able to remain in their own home and community. Women are consistently identifying Bsafe as a tool that supports their right to self determination.

"I was advised to move. Having the Bsafe kit made it possible to stay"

Breaches of Intervention Orders

The majority of Bsafe recipients experienced a decrease in breaches of Intervention Orders. **Prior** to women accessing the Bsafe kits breaches often consisted of physical and sexualised assaults. **After** access to Bsafe women experienced breaches of a psychological nature such as threats and intimidation.

Feelings of Safety

The majority of Bsafe recipients stated that the Bsafe kit has significantly improved feelings of safety. Women identified that Bsafe provided them with an additional level of support and the ability to ensure their and their children's safety. For many women Bsafe meant they could regain a sense of normality in their lives with less fear.

"Before I got the Bsafe kit I was basically a prisoner in my own home"

The typology of violence and abuse

- All Bsafe's clients have been women and their children escaping family violence and sexualised assault
- Only 3 Bsafe clients had not experienced physical violence
- Almost one-quarter of women were pregnant or had recently given birth when they were assessed for a Bsafe kit
- Three-quarters of perpetrators had choked their former partners
- One-third of women identified that they had experienced sexualised assault and/or rape
- Almost all clients had been stalked by the perpetrator post separation
- More than three-quarters of clients identified that perpetrators had threatened to kill them
- Almost two-thirds of perpetrators had harmed or threatened to harm or kill Bsafe clients' children
- Nearly two-thirds of perpetrators were identified by clients as having access to weapons, with more than one-quarter using a weapon in their most recent violent act
- All Bsafe clients identified that the men using violence against them had exhibited controlling, obsessive and jealous behaviours

Bsafe is Cost Effective

Not all women had both kits. Most chose the mobile unit as it gives protection in their homes and when they are out in the community.

The cost analysis detailed in the Final Report is based on a woman with three children accessing specialist housing support in the Hume region. The cost of a woman with children who accesses crisis accommodation, refuge, transitional housing and then exits into private rental in the Hume region was estimated at **\$10,195.90**. This figure also doesn't take into account the financial burden women often incur in relation to loss of income and productivity through to the inability to work or to honour back debts or repayments.

By contrast, the costs associated with a woman and her children who accessed refuge or crisis accommodation and then returned to their home with the added support of Bsafe, has been estimated at **\$3,755.12**. This figure includes the cost of temporary refuge and transitional housing for some Bsafe clients.

The Bsafe Interim and Final Evaluation Reports and the Bsafe DVD are available at <http://www.whealth.com.au/ourwork/bsafe.html>

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